



**U.S. Department of Justice
U.S. Attorney's Office
Western District of Texas**

Johnny Sutton, U.S. Attorney

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**SIX MEXICAN NATIONALS SENTENCED TO FEDERAL PRISON
IN CONNECTION WITH BREWSTER COUNTY CARJACKING**

United States Attorney Johnny Sutton announced that six Mexican Nationals have been sentenced to federal prison in connection with a January carjacking incident at a ranch in Brewster County.

Five of the six defendants, all of whom entered guilty pleas in March, appeared over the past two days before United States District Judge Robert Junell and were sentenced as follows:

23-year-old **Ricardo Morales-Herrera** of Ciudad Muzquiz, Coahila, to 125 months imprisonment for carjacking and possession/brandishing a firearm during a crime of violence;

21-year-old **Santos Baldemar Marines-Galvan** of Melchor Muzquiz, Coahila, to 63 months imprisonment for carjacking and to conspiracy to commit carjacking;

25-year-old **Manuel Antonio Torres-Hernandez** of Ciudad Muzquiz, Coahila, to 78 months imprisonment for carjacking and to conspiracy to commit carjacking;

23-year-old **Jose Alejandro Delgado-Ruiz** of Ciudad Muzquiz, Coahila, to 78 months imprisonment for carjacking and to conspiracy to commit carjacking; and,

22-year-old **Sergio Garza-Martinez** of Melchor Muzquiz, Coahila, to 63 months imprisonment for carjacking and to conspiracy to commit carjacking.

On May 18, 2004, the lead defendant in this case—27-year-old **Cipriano Flores-Morales** of Ciudad Muzquiz, Coahila—was sentenced to 156 months imprisonment after pleading guilty in March to carjacking, possession/brandishing of a firearm during a crime of violence, and transporting illegal aliens under circumstances endangering human life.

“Today's sentences send a strong and clear message that anyone who commits a violent crime with a firearm on the Southwest Border will be spending years locked away in a federal prison. These six men richly deserve the Texas justice that each has received,” stated United States Attorney Johnny Sutton.

– MORE –

Brewster County Carjacking sentences
June 22, 2004
Page 2

According to court documents, on January 16, 2004, the defendants walked to the Weyerts Ranch in Brewster County with the intent to steal a car. They broke into a residence, took possession of two firearms (a .22 caliber rifle and a 20 gauge shotgun), assaulted the residents once they arrived and held the two victims at gun point and knife point. The defendants then took a 1984 Ford Crown Victoria belonging to the victims and fled the ranch with Flores-Morales at the wheel. During the course of their flight, a rupture in the gas tank occurred due to the extreme weight of the vehicle combined with the rough terrain. The defendants were forced to abandon the vehicle approximately 9 miles from the ranch after gas fumes filled the car. Authorities arrested the defendants during a subsequent four-day manhunt.

United States Attorney Johnny Sutton commended the hard work and determination of the United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement and the Brewster County Sheriff's Office in bringing these individuals to justice. This case was prosecuted for the government by Assistant United States Attorney Gary Tromblay.

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